

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHASOM BROWN, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GOOGLE LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:20-cv-3664-YGR

**PRETRIAL ORDER NO. 1 RE: PRETRIAL
CONFERENCE**

Having considered the filings to date and the arguments and other submissions at the Pretrial Conference, held on November 29, 2023, for good cause shown the Court memorializes and enters the following orders:

1. **Trial Date and Schedule:** The trial of this matter is confirmed to proceed in Courtroom 1 on January 29, 2024, and is trailing *United States v. James*, 19-cr-043-YGR. Jury selection shall begin at approximately 9:00 a.m. Trial itself shall commence daily at 8:30 a.m. Counsel shall arrive in court early enough to proceed promptly at 8:00 a.m. each day with the Court to discuss issues outside the presence of the jury. Trial schedule will be Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. with two twenty-minute breaks. Additional time may be scheduled for matters outside the presence of the jury as necessary and determined by the Court. Sidebars are not permitted. Counsel should be prepared to anticipate issues so that they may be addressed outside of normal trial hours. In this regard, counsel should also be prepared to reconvene with the Court after the Court's standing calendars which normally begin at 2:00 p.m.
2. Each side shall be afforded eighteen (18) hours of to present their case, including opening statements and closing arguments. The Court shall reserve 45 minutes for plaintiffs and one hour for defendant for closing arguments. The parties shall receive daily timesheets advising

1 of the time remaining. Any concerns must be raised immediately or will be waived.

- 2 3. If necessary, the Court will set another pre-trial conference in the first two weeks of January.
- 3 4. **Standard Motions in Limine:** The Court hereby orders that: (a) witnesses shall be excluded
- 4 until testimony is completed; (b) there shall be no reference to or evidence presented of
- 5 settlement discussions, mediation, or insurance; and (c) there shall be no reference to or
- 6 evidence presented of wealth or lack thereof of any party except in the punitive damage phase
- 7 of a case, to the extent it exists, unless otherwise authorized by the Court.

8 A motion *in limine* refers “to any motion, whether made before or during trial, to exclude

9 anticipated prejudicial evidence before the evidence is actually offered.” *Luce v. United*

10 *States*, 469 U.S. 38, 40, n. 2 (1984). The Court’s rulings on the motions *in limine* will be

11 issued by separate orders.

- 12 5. Parties are ordered to admonish witnesses of the Court’s rulings. Failure to comply with a
- 13 ruling by the Court may result in sanctions, including without limitation the striking of the
- 14 witness’s entire testimony.
- 15 6. **Witnesses:** The parties are limited to calling the witnesses submitted on the list filed for the
- 16 Pretrial Conference. Upon a showing of good cause, including for rebuttal or impeachment
- 17 purposes, additional witnesses will only be allowed by Court order.
- 18 7. The parties shall provide briefing not to exceed three pages with respect to the appearance of
- 19 witnesses Sabine Borsay and Ramin Halavati. With respect to each, defendant shall provide a
- 20 separate list, under seal, which identifies all countries/states (and cities therein) to which each
- 21 witness has traveled and the accompanying dates for the year 2023. The filings shall be made
- 22 by **noon pacific time on December 13, 2023.**
- 23 8. This confirms the parties have delivered a single joint list of all witnesses, attorneys, and
- 24 others involved in the trial, in alphabetical order to be shown to prospective jurors during *voir*
- 25 *dire*.
- 26 9. **Exhibits and Exhibit Lists:** The parties are limited to using the Exhibits submitted on the
- 27 Exhibit List filed for the Pretrial Conference. No witness may be shown any document or
- 28 other object until it has been marked for identification using an exhibit number. The parties

shall file updated Exhibit Lists identifying those for which a stipulation of admissibility exists with an “S” in the appropriate box.

The jury may not be shown any exhibits until admitted into evidence or stipulated by the parties as to admissibility without the express permission of the Court.

10. A revised exhibit list with deleted columns and containing only public information shall be filed by **January 5, 2024**.

11. The parties shall provide the Court with two binders of exhibits for each witness’s examination. Any exhibit admitted into evidence shall be provided on the same day as admission to the courtroom deputy in a manila folder with a label identifying the exhibit.

12. **Trial Stipulations and Processes:** The Court reviewed and considered the parties’ stipulations at Docket Nos. 1051 and 1069 and resolved the parties’ outstanding disagreements. They are included herewith as Attachment A.

13. **Equipment:** Projectors, screens and similar equipment must be tested in the courtroom prior to the day when it will be used. Arrangements may be made with the Courtroom Deputy, Edwin Cuenco, at (510) 637-3540, as to an appropriate time for doing so. Counsel shall send the Court a proposed form of order if they would like to bring equipment into the courthouse. The United States Marshal Service requires an order.

14. Parties may use encrypted digital wireless system that includes a receiver and transmitter with XLR connector.

15. The parties shall review the Court’s policy regarding the jury’s use of a computer during deliberations at <http://cand.uscourts.gov/jurypc>.

16. **Jurors and Peremptory Challenges:** The Court will seat a total of nine (9) jurors and no alternates. The Court sets the number of peremptory challenges at three (3). Motions under *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79 (1986) for improper use of challenges must be made in a timely fashion. Argument on the same shall be made outside the presence of the jury panel. The Court will conduct the *voir dire*. Each side will be allowed 15 minutes to conduct additional *voir dire*.

17. A revised joint statement of the case not exceeding one-half page shall be provided by

1 **November 30, 2023.**

2 18. Counsel shall maintain a two-foot distance from the jury box.

3 19. Revised proposals for additional jury questions shall be filed by **December 15, 2023.**

4 20. In accordance with Model Rule of Professional Conduct 3.5(b) and Formal Opinion for 466,
5 the parties "may review a juror's or potential juror's Internet presence, which may include
6 postings by the juror or potential juror in advance of and during the trial, but . . . may not
7 communicate directly or through another with a juror or potential juror." A party "may not,
8 either personally or through another, send an access request to a juror's electronic social media.
9 An access request is a communication to a juror asking the juror for information that the juror
10 has not made public and that would not be the type of ex parte communication prohibited by
11 Model Rule 3.5(b)." Further, to the extent that a party asks any follow-up questions to a
12 prospective juror during *voir dire* regarding information obtained from the review, the party
13 shall disclose the review to the juror.

14 21. **Jury Instructions:** The Court heard initial argument on the submissions and will provide a
15 working draft to the parties in due course.

16 22. **Expert Disclosures/Fed. R. Civ. P. 68 Offers:** To the extent not already provided, counsel
17 shall lodge with the Court on the first day of trial a copy of all expert disclosures, including
18 any supplements, as well as all offers of judgment made under Fed. R. Civ. P. 68.

19 23. **Doe Defendants:** All Doe Defendants will be deemed dismissed once the jury, or first
20 witness, is sworn, whichever occurs first.

21 24. **Depositions to be Used at Trial:** Any party intending to use a deposition transcript at trial for
22 any purpose shall lodge the signed original (or a certified/stipulated copy if, for any reason, the
23 original is not available) for use by the Court *and* shall have extra copies available for use by
24 him/herself *and* the witness. All other parties are expected to have their own copies available.
25 The parties shall each prepare and provide an index of the lodged transcripts and shall review
26 the same with the courtroom deputy upon lodging the transcripts. The index shall provide a
27 space for the party and the courtroom deputy to confirm delivery of and receipt of each
28 transcript. Delivery of the transcripts shall occur no later than **Thursday, January 18, 2024.**

25. Before each trial day, counsel shall confer with the courtroom deputy and identify which of the transcripts may be used that day.

26. **Witnesses at Trial:** The parties are admonished that use of trial time is critical given the limited resources of the Court. All parties must have witnesses ready and available to testify. If the party presenting evidence does not have a witness ready to be called once a prior witness steps down, that party may be deemed to have rested its case. Further, and as explained, time does not stop while waiting for witnesses to arrive in Court. Witnesses *may* be taken out of order upon stipulation or with leave of Court *provided that* the circumstances giving rise to such an accommodation are promptly called to the attention of opposing counsel and the Court.

27. **Objections:** There shall be no “speaking objections,” and no rebuttal unless requested by the Court, in which case it shall be brief – e.g., “hearsay,” and if a rebuttal requested, “not offered for the truth.” If either counsel needs to make a better record, he/she may do so when the jury is out at the next break.

28. **Jury Questions:** The Court allows written jury questions which it will share with counsel at the break(s) and then place in the record.

29. **Punitive Damages:** In general, if the jury will be asked to consider punitive damages, the following additional orders apply:

- a. Defendant shall have all relevant financial data in Court in a sealed envelope once trial begins;
- b. Counsel shall have all witnesses who will be called to testify regarding the financial status of the relevant party (e.g., to authenticate relevant documents, etc.) available on 30 minutes notice once jury deliberations begin; and
- c. The parties shall meet and confer regarding written stipulations to streamline this phase of the case.

The Court will address the parties’ specific issues regarding damages in a separate order.

30. **Requests for Transcripts:** If transcripts will be requested during or immediately after the trial, arrangements must be made with the Court Reporter Coordinator (Telephone No. 510-

637-3534) **at least** two weeks prior to the commencement of the trial. *See*

<https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/about/clerks-office/transcripts-court-reporters/>. By 12/15/23.

31. **Settlement:** Counsel shall promptly notify the Court by phone and email (for after hours, use: ygrchambers@cand.uscourts.gov) of any settlement. The notification shall indicate what further steps need to be taken to finalize the settlement. Unless the Court receives notice of settlement by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Monday trial, jury costs will be assessed where the parties do not proceed to trial as scheduled. Civ. L.R. 40-1. Parties are advised that the trial and all trial-related dates will not be vacated until a formal Notice of Settlement is filed.

32. **Trial Decorum and Procedure:** Counsel, parties, and witnesses are expected to conduct themselves at all times – on or off the record and whether or not in the presence of a jury – in a professional and courteous manner during trial. Do NOT approach other parties' witnesses without permission. You may approach your own non-hostile witnesses without permission.

During voir dire you will be allowed to use the bathrooms in the jury room so that you do not share the facilities with the jurors. You may not linger in the jury room or use any exit door other than the one leading to the courtroom.

33. **Procedural Stipulations:** The parties shall review and file the procedural stipulations included herewith as Attachment B. To the extent any objections exist, the parties shall contact the Court immediately.


34. **Trial Exhibit Certification:** Upon conclusion of the trial, the parties shall review the exhibits and confirm the accuracy of those going into the jury room. The parties shall complete, deliver, and file the certification in the form included herewith at Attachment C.

35. **Failure to Comply:** Failure to comply with the obligations set forth in this order will result in sanctions appropriate to the gravity of the failure, including, but not limited to monetary fines and/or terminating sanctions.

This terminates Docket No. 1051.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 4, 2023


YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

United States District Court
Northern District of California

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